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News Release ~ Communiqué

Parks Canada Announces Changes to Fishing Regulations

CALGARY, Alberta, April 26, 1995 Parks Canada today announced changes to the fishing regulations for Banff, Jasper, Yoho, Kootenay, Waterton Lakes, Glacier, and Mount Revelstoke National Parks. The changes are designed to help the recovery of the threatened bull trout and to provide additional protection for all native fish species.

Once the most abundant trout in Alberta's eastern slope streams, over-fishing and increased competition from non-native fish have resulted in a steady decline in bull trout populations in recent years. As a result, two major changes to the fishing regulations have been introduced in an attempt to rectify the situation. They are the zero catch and possession limit on all bull trout (and all cutthroat trout in Banff National Park), as well as bait restrictions in some national parks.

The bait ban will apply to all edible baits including foodstuffs, worms and chemical or scented attractants. Only artificial lures and flies may be employed in areas in which a bait ban is in effect. The reason for this ban is that fish swallow edible bait much more deeply than they do artificial lures. This results in greater injury to the fish when released and a higher mortality rate than when caught with artificial lures.

Park regulations are changing to reflect the increased understanding, respect and appreciation of all components of our aquatic ecosystems. In the spirit of this, another change being implemented is a zero catch and possession limit on such non-game fish as suckers, brook stickleback and chub. Although once considered "trash fish" by many, it is now recognized that these fish also play an important role in aquatic ecosystems.

"These new measures are a key part of our long-term planning," said Mr. Percy Wiebe, Regional Limnology Specialist for the Department of Canadian Heritage. "National parks exist to protect all components of a natural ecosystem. We place a priority on the protection and management of all native species, such as the bull trout, which are considered to be at risk of disappearing from parts of their habitat."

A brochure containing a listing of current fishing seasons as well as special restrictions applicable to individual regions, is available to the public in all national parks, the Parks Canada Regional Office in Calgary, and at retail outlets selling parks angling licences. Fishing licence prices remain unchanged at \$4.00 per day, \$6.00 per week and \$13.00 per year.

Information :

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